

What is claimed is:

1. A method of voice communication comprising:
selecting one of a plurality of microphones of an earpiece unit;
receiving a selected voice communication of a first language from the selected microphones;
translating the selected voice communication from the first language to a second language, the second language different from the first to create a translated voice communication; and
transducing the translated voice communication at a speaker within the earpiece unit.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of microphones is a directional microphone.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the voice communication of a first language to a translation station and receiving the translated voice communication from the translation station.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of translating is performed by a processor disposed within the earpiece.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of microphones includes a front facing microphone, a rear facing, and a side facing microphone.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the second language is English.

13. A method of voice communication comprising:
selecting one of a plurality of microphones of an earpiece
unit;
receiving a selected voice communication of a first language
from the selected microphones;
transmitting the selected voice communication from the
earpiece unit using a short range transmitter;
receiving the selected voice communication with a short range
receiver and sending the selected voice communication
over a communications channel to a remote unit;
translating the selected voice communication at the remote
unit from the first language to a second language, the
second language different from the first to create a
translated voice communication;
sending the translated voice communication from the remote
unit over the communications channel;
transmitting the translated voice communication to the
earpiece unit using a short range transmitter; and
transducing the translated voice communication at a speaker
within the earpiece unit.

14. An earpiece for voice communication comprising:
an earpiece housing adapted for nonocclusive use such that
the earpiece housing does not block the external
auditory canal;
a plurality of microphones attached to the earpiece housing
and oriented in different directions;
a selection switch for selecting one of the plurality of
microphones electrically connected to each of the
plurality of microphones;
a short range receiver disposed within the housing;

a speaker for transducing sound, the speaker attached to the earpiece housing and electrically connected to the short range receiver.

15. The earpiece of claim 14 further comprising a short range transmitter disposed within the housing and operatively connected to the selection switch and at least one of the plurality of microphones for transmitting a voice sound communication received by at least one of the plurality of microphones.

16. The earpiece of claim 14 further comprising an intelligent control operatively connected to the selection switch and the transmitter.

17. The earpiece of claim 16 further comprising a pulse oximeter operatively connected to the intelligent control, the intelligent control adapted to receive a pulse oximeter measurement from the pulse oximeter and send the pulse oximeter measurement to the transmitter.

18. The earpiece of claim 16 further comprising a temperature sensor operatively connected to the intelligent control, the intelligent control adapted to receive a temperature reading from the temperature sensor and send the temperature reading to the transmitter.

19. The earpiece of claim 14 further comprising an intelligent control disposed within the earpiece housing and electrically connected to the selection switch and the transmitter.

20. An earpiece for voice communication comprising:
an earpiece housing adapted for nonocclusive use such that
the earpiece housing does not block the external
auditory canal;
a plurality of microphones attached to the earpiece housing
and oriented in different directions;
a selection switch for selecting one of the plurality of
microphones electrically connected to each of the
plurality of microphones; and
a speaker for transducing sound, the speaker attached to the
earpiece housing.